

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a mobile switching center (MSC) in a telecommunications network, the method comprising:

receiving a signal in response to a mobile station (MS) accessing the telecommunications network;

communicating MS identifying information to a location register;

communicating priority services capability information to the location register, the priority services capability information defining priority services supported by the MSC; and

receiving priority services subscription information from the location register, the priority services subscription information identifying priority services available to the MS.

22. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein the priority services capability information is communicated as a supplementary code.

23. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 21 further comprising:
 - generating an Update Location (UL) message; and
 - wherein communicating the priority services capability information to the location register further comprises communicating the UL message.
24. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein receiving priority services subscription information from the location register further comprises receiving an Insert Subscriber Data (ISD) message.
25. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein at least one of the priority services is an enhanced Multi-Level Precedence and Pre-emption (eMLPP) service.
26. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein at least one of the priority services is a Wireless Priority Service (WPS).
27. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein at least one of the priority services is a hybrid service.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a mobile switching center (MSC) in a telecommunications network, the method comprising:

generating an Update Location (UL) message including a priority services designation, the priority services designation comprising priority service capability information defining priority services supported by the MSC;

communicating the UL message to a location register;

receiving an Insert Subscriber Data (ISD) message from the location register in response to communicating the UL message, the ISD message comprising priority services subscription information operable for identifying priority services available to a mobile station (MS); and

providing the identified priority services to the MS.

29. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 28 further comprising:

generating an Insert Subscriber Data-acknowledgement (ISD-ack) message in response to receiving the ISD message and communicating the ISD-ack message to the location register; and

receiving a Update Location-acknowledgement (UL-ack) message from the location register in response to communicating the ISD-ack message.

30. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 28 wherein the UL message comprises enhanced Multi-Level Precedence and Pre-emption (eMLPP) information.

31. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 28 wherein the UL message comprises Wireless Priority Service (WPS) information.
32. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 28 wherein the UL message comprises hybrid service information.
33. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 29 wherein the ISD message comprises enhanced Multi-Level Precedence and Pre-emption (eMLPP) information.
34. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 29 wherein the ISD message comprises Wireless Priority Service (WPS) information.

35. (Currently Amended) A mobile switching center (MSC) comprising:
memory; and
a processor coupled to the memory, the processor operable for causing the MSC to:
receive a signal in response to a mobile station (MS) accessing the telecommunications network,
communicate MS identifying information to a location register,
communicate priority services capability information to the location register, the priority services capability information defining priority services supported by the MSC, and
receive priority services subscription information from the location register, the priority services subscription information identifying priority services available to the MS.

36. (Previously Presented) An MSC in accordance with Claim 35 wherein the processor is further operable to:
generate an Update Location (UL) message; and
wherein to communicate the priority services capability information to the location register further comprises to communicate the UL message.

37. (Previously Presented) An MSC in accordance with Claim 35 wherein to receive priority services subscription information from the location register further comprises to receive an Insert Subscriber Data (ISD) message.
38. (Previously Presented) An MSC in accordance with Claim 35 wherein at least one of the priority services is an enhanced Multi-Level Precedence and Pre-emption (eMLPP) service.
39. (Previously Presented) An MSC in accordance with Claim 35 wherein at least one of the priority services is a Wireless Priority Service (WPS).
40. (Previously Presented) An MSC in accordance with Claim 35 wherein at least one of the priority services is a hybrid service.